

the said wheat and rice is distributed genuinely among the poorest pilgrims and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) A quantity of 13,500 tonnes of wheat and 78000 tonnes of rice was allotted to the Government of Uttar Pradesh for Kumbha Mela at Below Poverty Line (BPL) rate. Out of this, Government of Uttar Pradesh has distributed 674 tonnes of wheat (including 654 tonnes of atta) and 611 tonnes of rice in the Kumbha Mela at BPL rates.

(b) Distribution of allotted foodgrains to the pilgrims in the Kumbha Mela was the responsibility of the Government of Uttar Pradesh. Government of Uttar Pradesh has informed that it was not possible to categorise the crores of pilgrims into BPL and Above Poverty Line (APL) and the distribution of wheat and rice was done among all the pilgrims without differentiation.

New food and agricultural policy

2909. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced a New Year Economic Package for the agriculture sector and constituted a Group of Ministers to formulate a New Food and Agricultural Policy for offering higher returns to the farmers cultivating wheat, paddy and growing more oilseeds and pulses in order to correct the current skewed pattern of farm outputs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when the report of GoM is likely to be received and implemented; and

(d) the manner in which the farmers are likely to be benefited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

(SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) The Government have constituted a Group of Ministers with Minister of Finance as Chairman to review whole gamut of policies relating to:—

(i) incentives for increasing agricultural productivity and for effecting the shift in the pattern of agricultural production to a more diversified cropping pattern; to enable more value addition through food processing and enhanced exportability; to reduce dependence on imports of edible oils;

(ii) devising institutional arrangements to bring about greater price stability over a wider range of agricultural products at levels remunerative to farmers, yet fair to the consumers; and

(iii) to suggest measures for building up indigenous capabilities to meet international competition and to evolve a suitable policy for agricultural exports.

(c) There is no fixed time frame for the report of Group of Ministers.

(d) The farmers are likely to be benefited with the policy measures/decisions of the Group of Ministers concerning incentives for increasing agricultural productivity, diversified cropping pattern, value addition through food processing, enhanced agricultural exports, greater price stability and building up of indigenous capability to meet international competition.

National Warehouse Policy

2910. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of godowns with FCI in each State/Union Territory both covered and uncovered, separately;

(b) the exact quantity and value of foodgrains lying in open with FCI as on date, foodgrain-wise;